

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the original sheets of drawing with Figs. 1-4 with the new sheets of drawing showing amended Figs. 1-4 (see **Appendix A**). Each of these Figs. 1-4 has been amended to add the legend "Prior Art" as required in the Office Action.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated September 7, 2006. Appreciation is expressed for the indication of allowable subject matter set forth in paragraphs 4-8 of the Office Action.

By the present Amendment, the drawings have been amended to label Figs. 1-4 as Prior Art, as required in paragraph 1 of the Office Action. Therefore, removal of the objection to the drawings set forth in paragraph 1 is respectfully requested.

Also by the present amendment, each of the claims 20, 21, 37 and 38 has been amended to clarify the gate connections question in the Office Action. Specifically, each of these claims has been amended to define that the recited connection, concerning connection to a preceding stage, applies to each of the N stages other than a first stage. In light of this Amendment, it is respectfully submitted that the question raised in the 35 USC §112, second paragraph, rejection concerning claims 20, 21, 37 and 38 has been addressed and clarified, and, accordingly, reconsideration and removal of the 35 USC §112, second paragraph, rejection regarding these claims and their respective dependent claims, is respectfully requested.

In addition, claim 32 has been amended to specify that the term “plus or minus” refers to voltages. Support for this correction can be found, for example, beginning with the discussion on page 19, line 22 et seq. concerning the embodiments shown in Fig. 18. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment and removal of the 35 USC §112, second paragraph, rejection regarding claim 32 is also respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 843.45061X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gregory E. Montone", is written over a horizontal line.

Gregory E. Montone
Reg. No. 28,141

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Attachments:

Appendix A

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